



Overview of Rocky Mountain Arsenal's Basin F

HISTORY

- The Basin F project site is located in the northwest portion of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal's 27-square mile site.
- The Army constructed Basin F in 1956 to hold contaminated liquid wastes from the Army and Shell Oil Company's chemical manufacturing operations. It was constructed with an asphalt liner to prevent leakage into the ground. The Basin could contain up to 243 million gallons and covered approximately 93 acres.
- When in operation, Basin F primarily held liquid waste from Army and Shell manufacturing operations.
- The Army and Shell Oil Company stopped using Basin F in the early 1980s.
- The Basin F interim cleanup action began in 1988 to drain, store and later incinerate existing liquids mix the remaining sludges with soil, and excavate and consolidate the soil/sludge mixture into a wastepile located within the basin area.
- During the interim cleanup action, some nearby residents complained about odors coming from the project site. Workers had excavated all 93 acres of the Basin at once and exposed the soil to the air, making it difficult to control the odors.
- An interim soil cover was placed over the area in 1989 until final cleanup plans were evaluated, developed and scheduled.

PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

- The Basin F Wastepile removal and landfill project is scheduled to begin in April 2006 and be completed by October 2007. It is one of the final three major cleanup projects at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.
- The safety of Arsenal workers and the surrounding community continues to be the Arsenal's top priority. The proposed cleanup plan for the Basin F area provides overall protection of public health and the environment.
- The upcoming Basin F Wastepile cleanup involves excavating the soil/dried sludge from the Wastepile and disposing it into the Arsenal's on-site, triple-lined landfill. When the Wastepile is excavated, a variety of proven odor controls will be applied as necessary. These include: adding additional clean soil as a cover; applying an odor-suppressing foam over the excavated area; covering the excavation area with a thick plastic liner; reducing the rate of excavation; or, temporarily suspending the project on a day-to-day basis during unfavorable weather conditions.
- The Wastepile cleanup design uses lessons-learned from the initial work that was done in the 1980s and the experience Arsenal experts have gained from more recent successful on-site cleanup projects. The excavation design, air and odor controls and monitoring plans for the project were developed collaboratively with federal, state and local regulatory agencies.
- The primary improvements made to this Basin F Wastepile project compared to the Basin F interim cleanup of 1988-1989 are a significantly smaller excavation area, multiple odor and emission controls and more stringent air and odor criteria. For example, 93 acres were excavated at once during the Basin F interim cleanup, which made it difficult to control odors.. However, during the upcoming excavation, less than one acre will be exposed at any one time, resulting in significantly reduced odors.
- The project will begin at a "slow start" pace. During this six-to-eight-week period, experts will conduct intensive air quality sampling and perform odor monitoring to confirm that odors and emissions are controlled at the project site during the workday and throughout the night, when the project is shut down and covered with soil. Crews will excavate about nine truckloads of soil per hour during this initial phase, and then increase that rate once the project controls have been proven effective.
- Throughout the project, air emissions and odors will be strictly monitored and controlled day and night. Numerous air-monitoring stations will be located around the project site and at the Arsenal boundary. In addition, Arsenal and Tri-County Health Department staff will be monitoring odor levels near the project site and at the fence line day and night.
- In order to minimize nuisance odors, the Basin F cleanup will occur only when appropriate weather conditions exist.

- As the Wastepile excavation is completed, the area will be backfilled with clean soil.
- Once the area has been completely excavated, a protective cover that meets the strict standards of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) will be constructed over the area. The RCRA-Equivalent cover will consist of a layer of crushed concrete to prevent wildlife from burrowing into the waste and a vegetative soil layer that will act as a sponge to absorb precipitation until it evaporates or is used by the vegetation. Once in place, the cover will be reseeded with native vegetation in order to blend in with the surrounding native prairie.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- While the Basin F Wastepile “slow start” portion of the project is in progress, the Refuge will be closed to the public. Once the controls have been proven effective and the project moves into regular operations, the Refuge will reopen to the public for weekday and weekend visitation and programs. To contact a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative or for more information about the Refuge, call 303-289-0930 or visit <http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov>.
- Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) has an odor response / 24-hour information line set up at 303-286-8032 to respond to community inquiries. TCHD staff also is available to investigate any odor concerns from the community.
- The Basin F Wastepile project is one of the last major cleanup projects at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. By 2011, the cleanup of the Arsenal and its conversion to a premier urban national wildlife refuge should be complete. Nearly one-third of the site’s original 27 square miles have already been incorporated into the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Refuge may more than double in size by the end of 2006.
- Additional suggested contact information:

Arsenal Public Relations Office

Susan Ulrich
sulrich@us.army.mil
 303-289-0136

Tri-County Health Department 24-Hour Odor Response Line

303-286-8032

Environmental Protection Agency

Laura Williams
 Remedial Project Manager
 303-312-6660

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Susan Newton
 State Project Officer
 303-692-3321

